United Nations A/66/820–S/2012/381

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 June 2012
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 109
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 29 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to bring to your attention the following:

Terrorism has hit Syria yet again: on 25 May 2012, the Syrian people were subjected to appalling carnage at the hands of the armed terrorist groups that are financed and supported from abroad. The Syrian Arab Republic would like to share with you the details of those massacres, which took place in Tall Daww (Hula) and Shawmariyah.

1. Hundreds of armed men gathered in an organized and systematic manner around the area in which the massacre took place. They were carrying heavy weapons, including armour-piercing rockets. At the zero hour that they had set for themselves, which was 1400 hours on 25 May 2012, they attacked the area simultaneously from three fronts, namely, from Rastan, Talbisah and Qusayr, all of which are towns around Tall Daww.

2. Those armed terrorist groups savagely murdered the al-Abdullah family, comprising Muhammad Abdulnabi Abdullah, his wife and six children, and Ratib al-Ulu and his father.

3. Also savagely murdered were the al-Sayyid family: Arif Muhammad al-Sayyid, Imad Muhammad al-Sayyid, Uqba Muhammad al-Sayyid, and the wife and three children of Arif Ali al-Dahir.

4. The armed terrorist groups also burned the crops of the citizens and set fire to houses. One body was discovered that was so badly burned that it has not yet been identified.

5. The armed terrorist groups destroyed the national hospital in Tall Daww that serves the families of the area.

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6. The area is guarded by five Syrian Arab army posts that are positioned outside the area of the massacre, and those posts were attacked by the armed terrorist groups.

7. The Syrian Arab army performed its duty to defend itself and the innocent, defenceless citizens and clashed with the armed terrorist groups until 2300 hours, when it was able to end that savage attack. It lost three of its best men and 16 soldiers were injured, who should be added to the list of those martyred in the two terrorist massacres.

8. Syria stresses that it did not introduce any tanks into the area. The army was in a state of self-defence, using the utmost degree of self-control and proportionality of response. Anything that has been published suggesting otherwise is the purest lie. It was the armed terrorist groups that were armed to the teeth with heavy weapons and entered with the intent to kill. Nothing is a better indication of that than the fact that the killings were carried out with knives, which have become the signature of those terrorist groups, which carry out their crimes by "cutting the throat in the Islamic manner".

9. Children, women and men were assembled in a specific place. If they had been killed in a bombardment, as is claimed by the satellite channels, they would have been covered with the dust of bombardment and their wounds would have been caused by artillery rounds. However, the pictures show that the crime was perpetrated in cold blood at close quarters.

10. The terrorist operation was carried out simultaneously on several fronts, which shows that the terrorist crime, which targeted innocent Syrian civilians, was planned in advance.

11. It should be noted that the people of this area supported the Syrian Arab army and would praise it in the sight and hearing of the world, which would appear to have cost them their lives in reprisal.

12. The armed terrorist groups also attacked the town of Shawmariyah in the countryside around Homs, carrying out extensive acts of destruction in an escalation of their crimes and terrorism before any Security Council meeting could be held and at the same time as the visit to Syria of the United Nations special envoy to Syria, Kofi Annan. Those terrorist groups normally carry out crimes against the Syrian people whenever a meeting on Syria is held by the Security Council, or in this case, before Mr. Annan arrived in Damascus. The Government of Syria advised the relevant mechanisms in the Human Rights Council that the armed terrorist groups consider the blood of the Syrian people a cheap price to pay for a few lines in the declarations of States that are trying to destroy Syria and kill the Syrian people on the pretext of defending human rights. Syria has pointed out that the blood of Syrians is being used in this brutal manner in order to throw suspicion on the Syrian authorities in a way that has no historical precedent.

13. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has condemned these despicable terrorist crimes in the strongest possible terms. Those crimes bear all the hallmarks and characteristics of appalling crimes and systematic, planned and gross violations of human rights. Syria is determined to uncover the criminals responsible for killing children and bring them to justice. They shall not be allowed to escape the consequences. The Government of Syria has established a council comprising the Ministers of Defence, the Interior and Justice, to look into what happened and submit a report within three days. Syria has declared that it is responsible for

protecting its people from killing and terrorism and will do everything necessary, within the framework of Syrian law and its international undertakings, to rescue the Syrian people from terrorism that is supported and financed from abroad. Against that background, it rejects all allegations that have been directed against it to the effect that it kills innocent Syrian citizens.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants also notes that on 15 May 2012, Al-Qaida-affilliated terrorist groups also carried out a massacre in the Karam al-Lawz quarter of Homs, killing 15 civilians, including a woman and her four children. That was before a Security Council meeting that was to be held the next day.

On 26 May 2012, armed terrorist groups fired six mortar shells from the Warshah quarter into the Nazhah and Hadarah quarters of Homs, killing Jeanette Mikha'il, a civilian who was mute, and wounding other civilians in that attack.

Yesterday, in the countryside around Dayr al-Zawr, in the province of Muhassan, an armed terrorist group stopped a bus that was taking to work engineers and technicians who are employed by the Furat Oil Company and abducted them, with the bus to an unknown location. More than 1,500 Syrian citizens have been abducted and the fate of more than 1,000 of them remains unknown.

On 26 May 2012, an armed terrorist group stole the sum of 12 million Syrian pounds and seals from the office in Hajine of the Abu Kamal branch of the Agricultural Bank, in Dayr al-Zawr governorate. The armed terrorist group stormed the office, threatened the treasurer and stole the money and seals from the office safe.

In Homs governorate, on 26 May 2012, at a farm in Qusayr in the countryside around Homs, the proper authorities took control of a warehouse and factory that were used by armed terrorist groups to manufacture explosive devices. In those buildings, they found large quantities of the primary materials used in the manufacture of such devices, fertilizer, acid, large gas bottles, detonators, equipment for the manufacture of devices, and explosive charges.

On 26 May 2012, also in Homs, the proper authorities also seized a stolen car in which there were various arms, including six Russian rifles, three pump-action rifles, hand grenades, explosive devices, a large quantity of ammunition for the Russian and pump-action rifles, a military cartridge pouch, military uniforms and several forged car licence plates.

On 26 May 2012, the proper authorities clashed in Rif Dimashq with an armed terrorist group that was attacking civilians and law enforcement forces in Duma. Several were arrested while others were killed. The authorities found in the possession of the group weapons that included explosive devices that were primed to explode, individual arms, a quantity of ammunition and a stolen car that was the property of the Rif Dimashq Water Authority.

In the Tall Rif'at area outside Aleppo, the terrorists were preparing to carry out a new massacre of Syrians, using explosives, but divine providence intervened and the explosive device that they had been preparing blew up in their faces, killing and injuring several of them.

Set forth above is a summary of all the attacks against the Syrian people that were undertaken in just one day, which make clear, as do all the other events that have been taking place over the past year, that it is not a question of peaceful demonstrations, or "the people want freedom of opinion and expression". The

Syrian State is confronting highly trained armed men who bear sophisticated arms and mean to kill, slaughter and perpetrate acts of terrorism. The Syrian State is responsible for protecting the Syrian people from those men and will carry out its duties in full, just as any other country in the world would that was facing what the Syrian people are facing.

What is taking place verifies Syria's claim that it is being subjected to terrorist campaigns that are supported and financed from abroad and being forced on Syria and the Syrian people. Even worse, the blood of the Syrian people is being sacrificed in media campaigns that attempt to hold responsible for those crimes the Syrian Government, which is making every effort to protect its people from terrorism.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative